Sept 14 '29

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My dear Professor Peano,

Many thanks for the issue of Schola et Vita _with reprint of your article on numbers. I believe that Prof. Guérard disagrees with me only because he wants to, not because he is not convinced. Aristotle, Horace, Malherbe, Boileau all would endorse my conclusions. But without opposition there could be no positive activity.

Prof. Levanzin's article on Maltese is interesting because of its fantastic claims for the antiquity of the language. While it may be that some (very few) forms come from an ancient base — the same is the case of Sinhalese for example — modern Maltese is nothing but vulgar Arabic + many Italian (Romance) + Greek words. This is so obvious that no further discussion of the subject is necessary.

The subject of numbers is exceedingly vast. In "Language" for September 1926 I published an article on the Quinary-Vigesimal system of counting in Europe, Asia & America in which I cite extensive bibliography. Professor Cajori of the University of California, Berkeley, Calif., has recently published 2 books on this subject. P. W. Schmidt in his recent work on Sprachfamilien has additional information on the system of counting especially in the Annam & Australian languages which complements my above-cited article.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

My present address is c/o
The Oriental Institute,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ills.